- RECOVERY PROGRAM PROJECT NUMBER: 3
- I. Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Service Program Management
- II. Principal Investigator: Bob Muth, Program Director, P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225. Phone: 303/969-7322, ext. 223. FAX: 303/969-7327. E-Mail: robert muth@fws.gov.
- III. Project Summary: The ongoing work of the Recovery Program Director's office is to ensure timely and effective planning, implementation, coordination, and administrative support of the Recovery Program by: 1) coordinating and implementing recovery activities;
  2) conducting Program planning and evaluation;
  3) managing the Recovery Program annual budget;
  4) providing staff assistance to Program committees; and
  5) directing and coordinating Service Recovery Program activities. These tasks were carried out by Recovery Program staff including the director, assistant director, coordinators for the major recovery elements, and clerical staff.
- IV. Study Schedule: 1989-ongoing.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

General Recovery Program Support Action Plan:

- VII.A.3 Update, refine, and prioritize recovery actions (RIPRAP) annually.
- VII.A.7 Monitor and assess Recovery Program accomplishments annually.
- VII.A.8 Develop biennial work plan to address priority needs.
- VII.B Actively participate in Recovery Program committees and secure funding for annual work plan and larger projects.
- VII.C Manage, direct, and coordinate Recovery Program activities.
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2005 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:
  - A. Program Director & Staff
    - 1. Directed and coordinated implementation of recovery efforts as described in the RIPRAP and the Annual Work Plan in the areas of: a) instream flow protection b) habitat restoration and nonnative fish management; c) propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and d) information, education, and public involvement. Program coordinators are: George Smith for instream flow protection; Pat Nelson for habitat restoration and nonnative fish control; Tom Czapla for propagation/genetics and research, monitoring, and data management; and Debbie Felker for information, education, and public involvement.

Significant Program accomplishments/activities in 2005 included:

- Continued augmentation of late summer flows in 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. Late spring flows were high and remained high through July, so an average-year flow target of 1,240 cfs was established. The flow target was met for much of the late summer and was only missed as the runoff played out in late August and reservoir releases could not be stepped up in time to offset the decline. Preliminary estimates are that just more than 17,163 acre-feet of water was released from Ruedi, 3,814 acre-feet from Williams Fork reservoirs and 31,200 acre-feet from Green Mountain Reservoir under the municipal lease.
- Completion of final EIS and Biological Opinion on Flaming Gorge operations.
- Work begun on Elkhead enlargement.
- Monitoring of sediment movement in Gunnison and Green rivers initiated to evaluate spring peak flows needed to create and maintain fish habitat.
- Fish screens completed at Government Highline and Redlands diversions.
- Studies conducted in the spring of 2005 to quantify razorback sucker larval drift and entrainment into Green River floodplain nursery habitats over a range of flows. Preliminary results indicate that beads (larval surrogates) were entrained at all targeted sites, including a site 54 miles downstream from the razorback spawning area. In addition, inflows to nursery habitats were measured and aerial photos were taken.
- Review of nonnative fish control activities at the a December 2004 workshop, resulting in increased efforts in 2005 to remove northern pike and smallmouth bass in the Colorado, Green and Yampa rivers (with evidence of both northern pike and smallmouth bass decline in the Green River).
- Formal evaluation of data to determine stocking success and fish survival was begun in 2005.
- Two-phase "Research framework" study begun in 2005 to determine impacts of management actions on each species and life stage and identify any gaps.

## 2. Carried out Program planning and evaluation:

- Requested, revised as needed, and posted FY 2004 project accomplishment reports to the web.
- b. Monitored FY 2005 Work Plan implementation and recommended modifications, as needed.
- c. Developed Program guidance and recommended FY 2006-2007 Work Plan.
- d. Reviewed and updated the RIPRAP and document changes (including changes to the RIPRAP budget); submitted recommended RIPRAP revisions to the technical, Management, and Implementation committees for review. Revised RIPRAP was not finalized and posted on website, but will be in 2006.

- e. Continued to implement peer review as needed.
- 3. Monitored the FY 2005 Recovery Program annual budget and modified as necessary.
  - a. Developed annual funding source/target tables (Program, Reclamation, and Service).
  - b. Developed and administered numerous cooperative agreements and contracts to implement activities such as: peer review, recovery goal litigation assistance, stream gages, etc.
  - c. Monitored payment and expenditure of Section 7 funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account.
  - d. Calculated FY 2006 annual agency contributions and depletion charge increases based on the 2004 CPI (3.3%).
  - e. Assisted with obtaining annual funding by organizing (and accompanying)
    Recovery Program trip to Washington, D.C. to brief key people in the
    Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, national
    environmental groups, Congressional delegations, and authorizing and
    appropriation committees. Prepared briefing book.
- 4. Provided staff assistance to the Implementation and Management committees:
  - a. Prepared and distributed agendas and related documents in coordination with committee chairs. Arranged meetings and conference calls.
  - b. Prepared and promptly distributed concise, accurate meeting summaries.
  - c. Maintained Recovery Program administrative record.
  - d. Provided staff assistance to committees as necessary.
  - e. Recovery Program committee and related activities publicized on the Program listserver and posted on Program participant web pages.
  - f. Attended Implementation, Management, and technical committee meetings. Took notes at Biology Committee meetings and promptly provided drafts meeting summaries to the Committee chair.
  - g. Maintained Recovery Program technical report library and database. Maintained library listing in Endnote bibliographic software and on the Program participant web pages.

- h. Continued to maintain the electronic mailing list for Program participants.
- i. Maintained web pages to serve information to Program participants.
- 5. Directed and coordinated Service activities related to the Recovery Program.
  - a. Administered funding for Service Recovery Program activities.
  - b. Conducted monthly Service conference call.
  - c. Coordinated with and provided staff support to Service management on Recovery Program activities and issues.
  - d. Prepared and distributed quarterly summary of Section 7 consultations for water depletions in the upper Colorado River.

## B. Fish and Wildlife Service

- 1. Provided technical expertise and recommendations to the Biology Committee as requested.
- 2. Participated in Biology Committee meetings.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII.Project Status: Ongoing and on track.

## IX. FY 2005 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$1,041,305 including \$47,905 overhead. \$100,000 of this total went to Reclamation to purchase PIT tags.
- B. Funds Expended: \$563,899 (including the \$100,000 for PIT tags).
- C. Difference: \$477,406 carried forward to FY 06. At the Management Committee's request, considerable funds were carried forward from FY 03, 04 and 05 to compensate for potential shortfalls associated with the President's proposed budgets from FY 05-07. Service funding for the Recovery Program has now been restored in the President's budget for FY 07, thus the FY 06 budget request for this project has been reduced by \$400,000, making funds available for other approved Recovery Program projects.
- D. Percent of FY 2005 work completed and projected costs to complete: All work completed.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None this year.
- X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.
- XI. Signed: Robert Muth, January 26, 2006

## APPENDIX: See also:

- FY 2004 annual progress reports: <a href="http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/anr.htm">http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/anr.htm</a>
- March 8, 2004 RIPRAP: http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/rip8-04.htm
- FY 2006-2007 Recovery Program scopes of work: <a href="http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sow.htm">http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sow.htm</a>
- FY 2006 Depletion Charge and Annual Budget Adjustments:

http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/bdoc.htm

- Implementation and Management committee meeting summaries: <a href="http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/mee.htm">http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/mee.htm</a>
- Quarterly summary of Section 7 consultations for water depletions in the upper Colorado River: <a href="http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sec7.htm">http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/sec7.htm</a>
- Reports list: <a href="http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/tracking.htm">http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/tracking.htm</a>

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